

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 7, 1896, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Auditorium Hotel, Chicago.
Saturday, March 7, 1896. My darling Mabel:

I miss your letters — nothing received from you for some days. I suppose I shall find letters waiting for me in Milwaukee.

Today I entertained at lunch Mr. Halle, Chairman of the Board of Education, Mr. Miller, a member of the Board and Mr. Crane. Came soon after 1 P.M. and stayed with me till 4 o'clock. They evidently believe in the principle of de-centralization. After they left Mr. McCurdy and I went out for a walk — walked about for two hours and then went into a [???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???][???] for half an hour.

Mr. Rosenthal, Chairman of the Sub-committee on the schools for the deaf, dined quietly with me at seven o'clock and spent the evening with me afterwards. I hear that Dr. Gallaudet made a tremendous speech against me — full of personalities as usual — and that Col. Parker of the Cooke Company Normal School defended me so vigorously — that it seemed at one time as if the discussion would end with a personal encounter between Col. Parker and Gallaudet!

Gallaudet evidently behaved in such an outrageous manner as to damage his own cause — and incline the School Board to listen to me.

Mr. Rosenthal will offer Mrs. Holden a salary of \$1000 to come to Chicago at once. This will give her her 2 opportunity. If she can make a favorable impression — she may be able to control the whole situation. If not — then probably Harris Taylor will be appointed next year as Supt. of the Schools for the Deaf.

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Mr. Rosenthal, though he had “an engagement for half-past eight” — forgot all about it — at least I suppose so — for he staid with me until 10 o'clock. Mr. Regensburg, Proprietor of the Exponent, a deaf man, called about 8 o'clock, and found me closeted with Mr. Rosenthal. Probably therefore the Exponent will come out with an article about that wicked Dr. Bell talking with the Chairman of the Sub-committee on Schools for the Deaf. Unless indeed Mr. Regensburg — should change the tone of the Journal in hopes of inducing me to subsidize it!

Mr. and Mrs. Crane had kindly sent two tickets for the Theodore Thomas Orchestra Concert — so after Mr. Rosenthal left — Mr. McCurdy and I slipped into the Auditorium Theatre and enjoyed the last part of the Concert. Saw Willie Hubbard and his wife there. Also Mr. and Mrs. Crane. At eleven o'clock Mr. Regensburg, the deaf man, turned up again. He seems disconsolate because I will not touch his paper, and admits that he will be obliged to suspend its publication.

Your loving husband, Alec.